

Our sole purpose is to glorify God, proclaiming through word and deed the love and compassion of Jesus Christ. We trust God's Spirit to lead and nurture us in all our community and congregational endeavors. We desire that all who come through our doors find deeper faith, larger hope, and more complete love.

**Service For The Lord's Day
Second Sunday of Advent
10 December 2017**

We Assemble to Worship

RINGING OF THE BELLS

BRINGING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN

** PRELUDE "Nun Komm Der Heiden Heiland" J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER: Patricia Simmons Welfare

** THE CONGREGATION GATHERS

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

"Zion Hears the Watchmen Singing" WACHET AUF

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE- *Hope for Those Who Are Weary*
Chuck, Lisa, and Austin Spell

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: (Sing the verse each time with the choir.)

HYMN 134 "Joy to the World" (second verse)

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

RESPONSIVE LITANY: Congregation Responses in **Bold**

The Light shines in the darkness.

but the darkness has not overcome it.

During Advent our weary souls seek God's daily strength.

The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

We grow weary when fear overshadows faith.

The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

We grow weary when destructive actions erupt in the world around us.

The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

For all of us feeling weary this Advent season:

**Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait,
the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of
Christ as we speak.**

Candle Lighting: Today we light two candles. The **first candle** illuminates patience in the areas of our lives where God has called us to wait. The **second candle** extends the promise of strength to all who feel weary and weak in the shadows of the world. As we continue our Advent journey, may our hope, peace, wisdom, and strength be kindled as the light grows brighter. Listen to the words about the wisdom we hope for this Advent from Proverbs 8:22-31.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

HYMN 134 "Joy to the World" (second verse)

Let us pray together: **God of mercy and compassion, scripture says that if we draw near to you, you will draw near to us. In a shadowy world where human weakness and weariness reside, we ask for you to draw near and dispel the darkness around us. May the light of this season illuminate our hope, strength, and steadfast endurance as we await the coming Savior. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

* HYMN 107 "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

REJOICE, REJOICE

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Myrtle Petty

Let us pray: **Holy God, we confess that we do not walk in your light. We hurt and destroy one another; we neglect the poor and hungry. We let evil grow among us and fail to bear good fruit. Forgive us; deliver us; prepare the way for us, so that we may be ready to enter into your presence, through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

* Silent Confession

* KYRIE ELEISON

Lord, have mercy upon us;

Christ, have mercy upon us;

Lord, have mercy upon us.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON (2 Corinthians 5:17-19a)

Leader: So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

People: All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation;

Leader: That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them....

All: We believe the good news that our sins are forgiven.

* GLORIA PATRI

We Proclaim the Word

FIRST LESSON: Micah 5:2-5

Message Version

** HYMN 137 "He Came Down" (second verse)

*He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light; hallelujah forever more.*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT: "What Little Town?"

(Children age 4 - grade 1 depart for worship readiness with leader Tami Warren)

ANTHEM "Christmas Peace Canon"

arr. Jean Anne Shafferman

SECOND LESSON: Luke 2:1-17

Message Version

Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE "Joy to the World: O Little Town of Bethlehem" Dr. Bron

* HYMN 121 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

ST. LOUIS

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: **I believe in the spirit of Christmas, for it is the spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose birth it celebrates; I believe in the lights of Christmas, for they remind me of him who is the light of the world; I believe in the greenery of Christmas, for it symbolizes the eternal life of those in Christ; I believe in giving gifts at Christmas, for it is in keeping with the greatest gift the world has ever known; I believe in being childlike at Christmas, for Jesus said we must come as children to enter the kingdom of heaven; and I believe in the angels' song about peace on earth among persons of good will, for when my will is good, as it is at Christmas, I feel a peace and joy in my heart that is unlike anything else in all the world. It has to be the peace and joy of God! Amen.**

PASTORAL PRAYER

We Respond to God

OFFERTORY

"Offertory on St. Louis"

arr. Dennis Janzer

(Visitors, please fill out cards in pew rack and place in offering plate.)

* DOXOLOGY

(Hymnal) No. 606

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We Go Forth to Serve

* HYMN 82 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

HYFRYDOL

* BENEDICTION AND CHORAL AMEN

"Fling Wide the Portals of Your Heart"

TRURO

* TAKING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

* POSTLUDE

"Mit Freuden Zart"

arr. Robert P. Glick

* Those who are able, please stand

** Seating of worshippers

We welcome our visitors today. If you wish more information about this congregation or the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), please speak with the minister. New members are received by 1) Re-Affirmation of Faith; 2) Transfer of Membership; and 3) by Profession of Faith and Baptism.

Today's prelude can be translated as "Savior of the Nations Come." The melody was first published in Erfurt Enchiridia in 1524. Thanks to Ian Parker for playing.

The offertory's tune is better known as "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

Today's postlude can be translated as "Lord Christ, when First You Came to Earth". It was originally published in 1566 in the Bohemian Brethren's Kirchengesang.

*THE CHRISTMAS WREATHS AND GREENERY ARE GIVEN TO THE
GLORY OF GOD BY THE SEASONAL FLOWER COMMITTEE*

December Ushers are: Whit Tart, Wesley Cowand, IV, Wes Cowand,
Tim Howard, Stan Mertz, Scott Prestage, Paul Viser

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS: **REMEMBER IN PRAYER...**

HOSPITAL/ASSISTED LIVING

Doc Fields – Southwood; Rm. 109

Frances Hubbard - GlenAire

Margaret Faircloth – Mary Gran; Rm. 715

Tink Purcell – The Cardinal at North Hills

Ted Lockerman – Mary Gran

AT HOME

Martha Dunn

Margaret Register

Don Wilson

Betty Heaton

OTHERS:

Betty Hairr – (Mother of Vickie Pope)

Juaweese Franklin – (Mother of Melissa Nimmo)

Joe Butler – (Brother-in-law of Penny Horne)

Christine Stacey – (Mother of Lara Capparuccia)

Joe Kozel – (Father of Kristi Williford)

David Askins – (Former GMPC member)

December: (Wednesday's: Handbells 6:00 p.m./Choir at 7:30 p.m.)

- 10 - 5:00 p.m. - Christmas Joy Program, Catered Meal to Follow
- 12 - 9:00 a.m. - Newsletter Deadline
- 13 - 1:00 p.m. - Staff Meeting & Lunch
- 3:00 p.m. - PresbyCrew; Children & Youth Choir/Handbells 5:00 p.m.
- 16 - 9:00 a.m. - Christian Food Bank of Salemburg
- 17 - 11:00 a.m. - Worship (*Sunday School weekly 9:45 a.m.) Lessons/Carols/Bells
- 5:00 p.m. - Youth Group
- 7:00 p.m. - Diaconate Meeting?

OTHER CONCERNS / LOOKING AHEAD . . .

WE CORDIALLY INVITE EVERYONE TO GMPC'S CHRISTMAS JOY PROGRAM, TONIGHT,

DECEMBER 10, 2017, AT 5:00 P.M., IN THE GMPC SANCTUARY. A catered dinner, funded by a generous church member, will be provided by Sandpiper: Fried Chicken, BBQ, Potatoes, Green Beans, Mac & Cheese (made by Sara Rosario), Hush Puppies, Dessert (provided by the P.W. Christmas Joy Committee), & Tea. We thank this year's Christmas Joy Program director, Lee Howard & her amazing Cast & Crew, Tami Warren, Sara Rosario & P.W. Committee for coordinating this year's dinner, & all volunteers who helped make this year's program possible.

New Member Welcome: At last Sunday afternoon's meeting the Session welcomed Patricia (Pat) Welfare as a new member of the Graves Memorial Presbyterian Church family. Pat comes by transfer of letter from the First United Methodist Church of Clinton, NC. Pat was born in Baltimore, MD and raised in Ridgeway, VA. She graduated from Guilford College with a degree in accounting and earned an MBA from UNC Greensboro. Although she is retired from SCC as chair of the Accounting and Business Administration Department, she continues to teach part time. She also works (payroll and accounting) for her daughter Beth who is a primary care physician here in Clinton. Pat is happy to be joining her grandchildren's (Rebekah and Trey's) church. Her hobbies include her dachshund Buddy, quilting, crafts, yard work, and following her beloved Baltimore Orioles. Her address is 502 Coharie Drive. Her phone number is 592-3976.

Copies of **These Days**, January - March, are available in the narthex & outside the office.

CAKES NEEDED for the December 14th First Baptist Soup Kitchen. We ask that all cakes be delivered to the GMPC kitchen by 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 13th. *Coordinator: Diane Westerbeek. Call the church office to sign up/place your name on the December list.

MISSION BUDDIES: (PreK—12th Grade, 3rd Sunday's monthly, as part of Sunday School)

December Mission: Helping Hands for the Homeless. ITEMS NEEDED: Blankets (\$2.50 Walmart blankets are fine), Bottles of Water, Single Serve Drink Mixes (lemonade, peach, etc.), Socks & Gloves (men & women), Snacks (that won't melt: peanuts, crackers, etc.), Gently Used Purses, Menstrual Hygiene Products (to fill the purses), as well as Monetary Donations. *A Mission Buddies bin is in the fellowship hall. **Please submit supplies by Friday, December 15th.**

We will honor Dr. Jerry Bron at our next First Wednesday Fellowship and Covered Dish Meal, scheduled for January 3rd, at 6:30 p.m. We encourage everyone to come out and join us as we show our appreciation to our Interim Pastor and his wife. January hosts: K - 5th Sunday School Class, Friends in Faith Groups 1 & 2, & Dale Purcell.

December 17th — GMPC's **Service of Lessons/Carols/Bells, 11:00 a.m.** Our traditional program of scripture and music to ring in the Christmas season.

December 24th — **Christmas Eve Worship Services, 11:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.**

There will be **NO Worship Readiness on Decemebr 17th**. The Worship Readiness class will remain in the sanctuary, with their parents, for the **Service of Lessons/Carols/Bells.**

PresbyMusic: Cherub Choir (PreK-1st Grade: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 4-4:30); Children & Youth Choir/Handbells (2nd-8th Grade: Wednesdays, 5-5:45);

PresbyCrew meets the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of every month from 3 – 5 p.m. for Kindergarten – 5th grade. Plan to join us & bring a friend!